

Paul Kouroupas

April 1997, In the matter of the petitions for approval of agreements and arbitration of unresolved issues arising under Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Maryland Case No. 8731, Phase II.

Jan. 1997, In the Matter of the Investigation Regarding Local Exchange Competition for Telecommunications Services; New Jersey BPU Docket No. TX95120631.

Dec. 1996, Application of TCG Connecticut for Arbitration with the Southern New England Telephone Company Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Connecticut Docket No. 96-09-08.

Dec. 1996, Petition of TCG Connecticut for an Advisory Ruling Concerning Custom Service Arrangements of the Southern New England Telephone Company; Connecticut Docket No. 96-06-21.

Oct. 1996, NYNEX/Teleport Arbitration; Massachusetts D.P.U. 96-73/74.

Oct. 1996, In the matter of the Petitions for Approval of Agreements and Arbitration of Unresolved Issues Arising under Section 252 of The Telecommunications Act of 1996; Maryland Case No. 8731.

Oct. 1996, Petition of TCG Virginia, Inc. for arbitration of unresolved issues from interconnection negotiations with Bell Atlantic-Virginia, Inc. Pursuant to § 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Virginia Case No. PUC960103.

Oct. 1996, Petition for Arbitration Pursuant to §252(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to Establish an Interconnection Agreement with NYNEX; Rhode Island Docket No. 2448.

Sept. 1996, In the matter of the petition of Teleport Communications New York for Arbitration pursuant to 252 (B) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to Establish an Interconnection Agreement with Bell Atlantic; New Jersey Docket No. TO96070525.

Aug. 1996, Petition of TCG Pittsburgh for Arbitration to Establish an Interconnection Agreement with Bell Atlantic - Pennsylvania, Inc.; Pennsylvania Docket No. A-310213F0002.

Aug. 1996, In the Matter of the Request for Board Guidance on Area Code Relief Plan; New Jersey BPU Docket No. TO9602132.

March 1996, Formal Investigation to Examine and Establish Updated Universal Service Principles and Policies for Telecommunications Services in the Commonwealth; Pennsylvania Docket No. I-00940035.

Oct. 1995, Application of the Southern New England Telephone Company for approval to offer unbundling loops, ports, and associated inter-connection arrangements; Connecticut Docket No. 95-06-17.

Sept. 1995, DPUC Investigation into the unbundling of the Southern New England Telephone Company's local telecommunications network; Connecticut Docket No. 94-10-02.

August 1995, In the matter of the application of MFS Intelenet of Maryland, Inc. for authority to provide and resell local exchange and inter-exchange telephone service; and requesting the establishment of policies and requirements for the interconnection of competing networks; Maryland Case No. 8584, Phase II.

July 1995, Petition for approval of numbering plan area relief for 305 area code by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company; Florida Docket No. 941272-TL.

July 1995, Investigation by the Department on its own motion into IntraLATA and local exchange competition in Massachusetts; Massachusetts Docket No. D.P.U. 94-185.

Feb. 1995, Application of MFS Intelenet of Pennsylvania, Inc., MCI Metro Access Transmission, TCG Pittsburgh, and Eastern TeleLogic for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide and resell local exchange telecommunications services (Phase II); Pennsylvania Docket No. A-310203F0002 et al.

Nov. 1994, Proposed introduction of a trial of Ameritech's Customers First Plan in Illinois; Illinois Docket No. 94-0096.

Nov. 1993, In the matter of the investigation by the Commission into legal and policy matters relevant to the regulation of firms, including current telecommunications providers and cable television firms, which may provide local exchange and exchange access services in Maryland in the future; Maryland Case No. 8587.

May 1993, Development of a statewide policy regarding local interconnection standards; Illinois Docket No. 92-0398.

May 1993, Petition for expanded interconnection for alternate access vendors within local exchange company central offices by Intermedia Communications of Florida, Inc.; Florida Docket No. 921074-TP.

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HAND DELIVERY

Re: Docket No. 960786-TL

Dear Ms. Bayo:

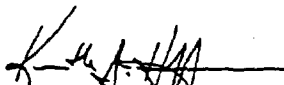
Enclosed herewith for filing in the above-referenced docket on behalf of Teleport Communications Group, Inc. are the following documents:

1. Original and fifteen copies of the prefiled rebuttal testimony of Paul Kouroupas; and
2. Original and fifteen copies of the prefiled rebuttal testimony of Frank R. Hoffmann, Jr.

Please acknowledge receipt of these documents by stamping the extra copy of this letter "filed" and returning the same to me.

Thank you for your assistance with this filing.

Sincerely,


Kenneth A. Hoffman

KAH/rl

cc: All Parties of Record

Trib.3

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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Certificate

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

REBUTTAL TESTIMONY

OF

FRANK R. HOFFMANN, JR.

ON BEHALF OF

TELEPORT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP INC.

DOCKET NO. 960786-TL

JULY 31, 1997

1 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND POSITION**
2 **WITH TELEPORT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.**

3 **A. My name is Frank R. Hoffmann, Jr. My business address is 25 South**
4 **Charles St., Suite 2001, Baltimore, MD 21201. I am the Regional**
5 **Director of Carrier Relations, for Teleport Communications Group, Inc.,**
6 **I am responsible, among other things, for ensuring compliance with the**
7 **Interconnection Agreement between TCG and BellSouth**
8 **Communications ("BellSouth"), dated July 15, 1996, and with the 1996**
9 **Telecommunications Act in TCG's Southern Region.**

10 **Q. ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU TESTIFYING?**

11 **A. I am testifying on behalf of Teleport Communications Group, Inc.'s**
12 **affiliate TCG South Florida (collectively referred to as "TCG").**

13 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR BACKGROUND AND**
14 **EXPERIENCE.**

15 **A. I received a Masters of Business Administration in Finance in 1988**

1 from the University of Maryland, in College Park, Maryland. I have ten
2 years of experience in the telecommunications industry, including nine
3 years with Bell Atlantic. I held positions of increasing responsibility in
4 the areas of Service Costs, External Affairs, Finance and Marketing with
5 Bell Atlantic. I joined TCG in February, 1997.

6 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

7 A. I will rebut the Direct Testimony of BellSouth witness W. Keith Milner
8 who concludes that BellSouth meets the first Checklist Item contained in
9 Section 271(c)(2)(B). The first Checklist item requires BellSouth to
10 provide interconnection to TCG that is "at least equal in quality" to that
11 which BellSouth provides to itself or other parties with whom it
12 interconnects. While Mr. Milner concludes that BellSouth meets this
13 checklist item, my operational experience with BellSouth leads me to
14 conclude that they do not. My testimony will address four specific
15 circumstances in which BellSouth is not providing equal quality
16 interconnection to TCG in Florida:

- 17 • BellSouth fails to provide properly size interconnection trunks to
18 TCG, which results in blockage of calls to TCG's customers
19 from BellSouth's customers;
 - 20 • BellSouth's network design exacerbates the call blocking
21 problem, and increases TCG's risk of significant network failure;
 - 22 • BellSouth fails to provide timely meet-point billing data so as to
23 allow TCG to bill interexchange carriers (IXCs); and
 - 24 • BellSouth fails to confirm TCG's Signaling System 7 ("SS7")
25 point codes.
- 26
27
28

1 In sum, I conclude that BellSouth has not and cannot
2 demonstrate that it is providing TCG with interconnection that is at least
3 equal in quality to that provided by BellSouth to itself, its subsidiaries
4 and affiliates and to any other carrier to which it provides service.

5 **INTERCONNECTION TRUNK GROUPS**

6 **Q. WHAT IS INTERCONNECTION?**

7 A. Interconnection is the physical linking of two networks for the mutual
8 exchange of telecommunications traffic. GTE and BellSouth have
9 utilized interconnection to exchange local traffic between their
10 customers for decades.

11 **Q. WHY IS INTERCONNECTION IMPORTANT TO ALECS LIKE**
12 **TCG?**

13 A. Interconnection is vitally important because like GTE, TCG is a
14 facilities-based LEC whose customers make local calls to and receive
15 calls from BellSouth's customers. The difference between GTE and
16 TCG is that GTE's service area is contiguous to BellSouth's, while
17 TCG directly competes within the same service territory as BellSouth.

18 **Q. WHAT HARM DOES BELL SOUTH CAUSE BY PROVIDING**
19 **INADEQUATE INTERCONNECTION TO TCG?**

20 A. When customers move their service from BellSouth' network to TCG's
21 network, suddenly callers' attempts to reach A party experience a high
22 level of blocked calls. Obviously this is completely unacceptable to

1 TCG, and to its customers. This call blockage is a source of enormous
2 operational frustration to TCG's otherwise successful effort to provide
3 quality service. The call blockage degrades the quality of service that
4 TCG's customers experience and undermines their first impression of
5 TCG as a competitive alternative to BellSouth. Significantly, TCG's
6 customers are not able to discern that the call blockage problem is
7 caused by BellSouth.

8 Q. IF BELL SOUTH'S INADEQUATE INTERCONNECTION IS A
9 COMPETITIVE IMPAIRMENT TO TCG, CAN'T TCG JUST FIX
10 IT?

11 A. There is nothing TCG can do to our side of the network to overcome
12 BellSouth's refusal to properly operate its half of these jointly
13 provisioned local calls between competing carriers. Given the reality
14 that no single ALEC, including TCG will ever have 100% of the
15 customers, ALECs will forever be reliant on competing carriers to
16 originate and terminate calls from or to their customers respectively.

17 If BellSouth actually provide equal quality interconnection as
18 they are required to do, TCG would have an opportunity to be more
19 competitive, and accordingly we would take more business away from
20 BellSouth. Obviously BellSouth has no commercial incentive to help
21 TCG take business away from it. Under ordinary commercial
22 circumstances, the Regional Bell Operating Companies ("RBOCs")

1 would not sell competitors equal quality interconnection. This is
2 precisely why equal quality interconnection is a requirement under law.

3 **Q. WHAT MOTIVATION DOES BELL SOUTH HAVE TO PROVIDE**
4 **TCG WITH EQUAL QUALITY INTERCONNECTION?**

5 A. The revenue opportunities associated with BellSouth's entry into the
6 interLATA toll market were the "carrot" to motivate BellSouth to
7 provide TCG the equal quality interconnection required by the Act.
8 BellSouth's incentive is to provide the required Checklist item, so that it
9 can provide interLATA toll.

10 **Q. DO TCG AND BELL SOUTH HAVE AN APPROVED**
11 **INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT?**

12 A. Yes. TCG and BellSouth filed their interconnection agreement with the
13 Florida Public Service Commission ("PSC") over one year ago, on July
14 26, 1996. The Commission approved that agreement on October 29,
15 1996, by Order No. PSC-96-1313-FOF-TP.

16 **Q. DOES A SIGNED AND APPROVED INTERCONNECTION**
17 **AGREEMENT DEMONSTRATE THE PRESENCE OF**
18 **FACILITIES-BASED COMPETITION IN FLORIDA?**

19 A. No. Full implementation of an interconnection is not instantaneous.
20 TCG's experience with BellSouth in Florida (and with other Regional
21 Bell Operating Companies in other states) suggests that it will take some
22 time before full implementation is achieved. Until the interconnection

1 agreement is fully implemented, the concept of vigorous local exchange
2 competition remains illusory.

3 Q. BELLSOUTH WITNESS MILNER TESTIFIED THAT
4 BELLSOUTH IS MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF
5 SECTION 251(C)(2). DO YOU AGREE?

6 A. No, I strongly disagree. Section 251(c)(2) provides that BellSouth has
7 the duty to provide interconnection with a local exchange carrier's
8 network "that is at least equal in quality to that provided by the local
9 exchange carrier to itself or to any subsidiary, affiliate, or any other
10 party to which the carrier provides interconnection." BellSouth has not
11 demonstrated that it provides interconnection parity in a number of
12 areas.

13 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE AREAS WHERE BELLSOUTH IS NOT
14 PROVIDING INTERCONNECTION TO TCG "THAT IS AT
15 LEAST EQUAL IN QUALITY" TO THE SERVICE IT PROVIDES
16 TO ITSELF.

17 A. BellSouth fails to provide equal quality interconnection to TCG by
18 improperly undersizing interconnection trunks to TCG, thereby causing
19 network congestion and call blocking problems. This adversely and
20 disproportionately affects TCG and its customers.

21 Q. BASED UPON YOUR EXPERIENCE, HAS BELLSOUTH
22 PROPERLY SIZED INTERCONNECTION TRUNKS BETWEEN

1 **ITSELF AND TCG?**

2 A. No. I believe that BellSouth continually fails to adequately size its end
3 of the interconnection trunk groups. Likewise, even when the
4 interconnection trunks might be properly sized, BellSouth is too slow to
5 grow the trunks to handle the increased traffic flowing between
6 BellSouth and TCG. As a result, a significant amount of traffic
7 destined for TCG is blocked by BellSouth. Because BellSouth blocks
8 the traffic at their office, TCG is unable to measure the traffic that it
9 consequently does not receive.

10 Q. **HOW HAVE YOU DETERMINED THAT THIS BLOCKAGE IS**
11 **OCCURRING?**

12 A. Often when a new trunk group or trunk group augmentation is added,
13 the trunk group immediately fills up to capacity with traffic. Basically,
14 there are two possible explanations. This could indicate that a large
15 quality of additional traffic is instantaneously materializing from
16 somewhere within BellSouth's network at the precise time of
17 installation. Alternatively, this could indicate that the original set of
18 trunk groups was insufficiently sized to handle the traffic.

19 The only reasonable explanation for this avalanche of traffic
20 suddenly transmitted by BellSouth to TCG is that the new trunk groups
21 are filling up with traffic which was previously being blocked by
22 BellSouth because of their lack of trunk capacity in the direction from

1 BellSouth to TCG. BellSouth offers no other reasonable explanation.

2 Q. DOES TCG EXPERIENCE BLOCKING ON THE
3 INTERCONNECTION TRUNKS IN THE OPPOSITE
4 DIRECTION, I.E., FROM TCG TO BELL SOUTH?

5 A. No. TCG monitors those trunks and trunk ports and installs additional
6 capacity in a timely fashion. TCG only seeks BellSouth to do the same
7 on their end.

8 Q. HAS TCG RECEIVED COMPLAINTS FROM ITS CUSTOMERS
9 CONCERNING CALL BLOCKAGE?

10 A. Yes. TCG has received and continues to receive complaints from its
11 customers about blocked incoming traffic. Customers who subscribe to
12 TCG local dial tone suddenly experience complaints from their
13 customers that they are having difficulty being reached and that calls are
14 not getting through. Our end user customers then complaint to TCG
15 about blocked calls. In several instances customers have threatened to
16 discontinue service directly as a result of blocking. This blocking is
17 occurring even though there is available capacity within TCG's switched
18 network. These occurrences demonstrate the existence of call blocking.

19 Q. HAS TCG ALERTED BELL SOUTH TO ITS CONCERNS ABOUT
20 BLOCKING?

21 A. Yes. TCG has contacted BellSouth regarding numerous customer
22 complaints concerning blocked calls. TCG representatives also have

1 met with BellSouth representatives in an attempt to persuade BellSouth
2 to address the underlying cause of the blocked calls. BellSouth,
3 however, has been largely unresponsive to this problem and
4 uncommunicative to TCG's concerns.

5 Q. SHOULD BELLSOUTH KNOW WHERE THE PROBLEM IS
6 AND HOW TO FIX IT?

7 A. Yes, from my years of experience in the telecommunications industry, I
8 have no doubt that the BellSouth engineers could easily provision the
9 necessary trunks, in a timely fashion during the course of routine
10 business, and to industry standards.

11 Q. CAN YOU DETERMINE WHETHER BELLSOUTH IS
12 PROVIDING TCG INTERCONNECTION WITH BELLSOUTH'S
13 NETWORK THAT IS AT LEAST EQUAL IN QUALITY TO
14 THAT PROVIDED BY BELLSOUTH TO ITSELF?

15 A. Unfortunately, BellSouth has not presented data regarding the
16 percentage of call blockage it experiences for its own internal traffic as
17 compared to the percentage of TCG's traffic which is being blocked.
18 The industry standard blocking criteria for tandem routed traffic is P-
19 .01. This criteria is applicable to the busiest time the trunk is in use
20 during any given day and is measured in Busy Hours. This equates to
21 one in every 10,000 call attempts not being completed. Conversely, the
22 industry standard blocking criteria for direct and office routed traffic is

1 P-.005. This criteria is also applicable to the busiest time the trunk is in
2 use during any given day and is measured in Busy Hours. This type of
3 trunking experiences half the blocking and is also the type of trunking
4 BellSouth has refused to install for interconnection to TCG's network.
5 Unless BellSouth can establish that the parameters of call blocking are
6 the same for itself as well as for TCG and other carriers, it cannot meet
7 the first checklist item. The Rebuttal Testimony of TCG witness Paul
8 Kouroupas addresses the reporting requirements that are crucial to
9 determine whether the parity standard is met.

10 **NETWORK DESIGN**

11 **Q. ARE THERE ANY SOLUTIONS TO THE CALL BLOCKING**
12 **PROBLEM YOU DESCRIBE?**

13 A. Yes. One solution would be for BellSouth to establish direct end-office
14 interconnection trunks between certain BellSouth switches and TCG's
15 switches. This architecture is an industry standard, both for local and
16 toll traffic routing. Its implementation would alleviate to large degree
17 the congestion BellSouth is experiencing at its tandems.

18 **Q. HOW DOES BELL SOUTH CURRENTLY ROUTE TRAFFIC TO**
19 **TCG?**

20 A. Today, BellSouth aggregates traffic destined to ALECs at its tandem
21 switches and then routes the traffic to TCG and other ALECs. This
22 local traffic was previously routed via BellSouth's local network and

1 never traversed the tandem. By aggregating the traffic as its tandem,
2 not only is BellSouth causing severe tandem congestion. it is
3 prematurely and unnecessarily exhausting its tandem capacity.
4 BellSouth is thereby providing service to its competitors that is
5 indisputably inferior to the quality of service its own customers receive.
6 On high volume routes, it is also typically less expensive to route (at
7 least the majority of) the traffic via a direct trunk rather than through
8 the tandem. This exclusive usage of tandem routing imposed by
9 BellSouth causes ALECs' costs to be higher than they would otherwise
10 be.

11 **Q. CAN YOU DESCRIBE HOW BELL SOUTH ROUTES TRAFFIC**
12 **TO ITS OWN END-USERS?**

13 **A.** In its own network, BellSouth establishes direct trunks between many
14 end offices as the "primary route" for call completion. When those
15 trunks are at capacity, an end office will overflow traffic to a local
16 tandem switch to be completed to the send end office. Therefore, a
17 BellSouth customer call has two different options for completion --
18 directly to the end office, or alternatively through the tandem, as
19 opposed to one tandem route to which BellSouth relegates TCG. This
20 direct trunking between end-offices is common industry practice and has
21 been for years.

22 **Q. COULD SUCH ROUTING BE USED FOR CALLS TO AND**

1 **FROM TCG CUSTOMERS?**

2 A. Yes. Despite the uncontested and undeniable fact that such direct end-
3 office trunking is used in its own network, BellSouth has chosen to
4 provide no direct end-office routed facilities to TCG. BellSouth refuses
5 to employ this customary and efficient architecture, even though TCG
6 has collocation arrangements at end offices where BellSouth could
7 easily arrange for such interconnection. Sound and nondiscriminatory
8 engineering practices would dictate that BellSouth establish
9 interconnection trunks directly from its end offices to ALEC switches
10 where substantial traffic is expected or realized.

11 **Q. HOW ARE TCG AND ITS CUSTOMERS HARMED BY**
12 **BELLSOUTH'S ENGINEERING DECISIONS?**

13 A. TCG customers calling BellSouth customers and BellSouth customers
14 calling TCG customers have only one path -- through the tandem -- and
15 hence no alternative route if the tandem trunks are blocked out of
16 service. BellSouth is discriminatorily placing ALECs at unnecessary
17 risk of catastrophic network failure by creating a single point of failure
18 within the BellSouth network. This creates a disproportionate impact on
19 ALECs who are unable to receive traffic from BellSouth's end offices.

20 **Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT BELLSOUTH'S FAILURE TO**
21 **PROVIDE ROBUST ROUTING OPTIONS TO ALECS**
22 **CONSTITUTE DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT?**

1 A. Yes. If BellSouth's tandem switch fails at any time. BellSouth will still
2 be able to route its own traffic through its end office network or to
3 other tandems. Because BellSouth has elected to provide no end office
4 routed facilities to TCG, a tandem failure would severely impact TCG's
5 customers, as well as the other ALECs.

6 Q. **HAVE OTHER REGULATORY COMMISSIONS ADDRESSED**
7 **THESE CALL BLOCKAGE ISSUES?**

8 A. Yes. The New York Public Service Commission, when weighing
9 similar facts regarding New York Telephone, found that because of the
10 blockage, the RBOC had not "established a prima facie case for
11 availability" for interconnection at the trunk-side of a local switch.

12 **IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS**

13 Q. **HAS BELL SOUTH BEEN RESPONSIVE TO TCG'S NEEDS**
14 **REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE**
15 **INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT?**

16 A. No. BellSouth has been very slow in implementing the details of the
17 interconnection agreement. Despite TCG's attempts to implement its
18 interconnection agreement, BellSouth has not developed the coherent
19 processes and procedures to facilitate implementation of the
20 interconnection agreement.

21 Q. **CAN YOU PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE OF THE DIFFICULTIES**
22 **TCG HAS HAD WITH BELL SOUTH IN IMPLEMENTING THE**

1 **INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT?**

2 A. Yes. BellSouth does not provide TCG with the records necessary to
3 issue meet-point billing invoices to the interexchange carriers ("IXCs")
4 in a timely fashion.

5 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE MEET-POINT BILLING.**

6 A. Meet-point billing is an arrangement whereby two or more local
7 exchange carriers (e.g., TCG and BellSouth) jointly provide to a third
8 party the transport element of switched exchange access service to one
9 of the LEC's end office switches, with both LECs receiving a share of
10 the transport element revenues.

11 **Q. HOW DOES THE BILLING PROCESS WORK IN SUCH A**
12 **MEET-POINT BILLING ARRANGEMENT?**

13 A. BellSouth must provide TCG with switched access detail usage data on
14 magnetic tape, or other agreed upon media, within a reasonable time
15 after the usage occurred. To the extent that BellSouth does not provide
16 the usage data, TCG is unable to bill the IXC, thereby depriving it of
17 timely receipt of revenues to which it is entitled.

18 **Q. HAS BELL SOUTH PROVIDED THE APPROPRIATE DATA TO**
19 **TCG?**

20 A. No. BellSouth has not provided, on a timely basis, the billing data that
21 would allow TCG to bill the appropriate IXC. TCG, therefore, is being
22 directly financially harmed by BellSouth's dilatory tactics.

1 **Q. HAS BELL SOUTH TIMELY PROVIDED THAT BILLING**
2 **INFORMATION TO ITSELF OR OTHERS?**

3 A. Presumably yes. BellSouth, however, has not demonstrated in testimony
4 or otherwise that it is providing this meet-point billing data to TCG in
5 the same manner and time frame as it provides this information to itself
6 or others. In the absence of data supporting his conclusion, I do not see
7 any foundation to support BellSouth witness Milner's claim that
8 BellSouth meets the first checklist item.

9 **Q. IS THERE ANY INFORMATION BELL SOUTH IS REQUIRED**
10 **TO PROVIDE UNDER THE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**
11 **WHICH BELL SOUTH IS NOT PROVIDING?**

12 A. Yes. BellSouth has refused to provide the Carrier Identification Codes
13 ("CIC") that are active within BellSouth's access tandem switches.

14 **Q. WHAT IS A CIC AND WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?**

15 A. A CIC is a code assigned to an Interexchange Carrier and is used to
16 identify and route traffic to that Interexchange Carrier. TCG needs to
17 be made aware of the CIC codes active in BellSouth's access tandem
18 switches in order to properly route traffic to them. To date BellSouth
19 has refused to provide the CIC to TCG but rather has chosen to provide
20 the Carrier's Access Customer Name Abbreviation ("ACNA"). TCG
21 must then cross reference the ACNA in the Local Exchange Routing
22 Guide ("LERG") to ascertain the appropriate CIC. In several instances

1 the ACNA has not matched the associated Carrier Name provided by
2 BellSouth causing further confusion and misrouting of calls.

3 Q. DO YOU HAVE OTHER EXAMPLES OF BELLSOUTH'S
4 UNRESPONSIVENESS TO TCG IN IMPLEMENTING THE TCG-
5 BELLSOUTH INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT?

6 A. Yes. Another example of a problem with the implementation of the
7 interconnection agreement is BellSouth's failure to confirm the opening
8 of Signaling System 7 ("SS7") point codes for TCG.

9 Q. WHAT IS AN SS7 POINT CODE?

10 A. SS7 provides routing and call set-up information for carriers. The SS7
11 point code is a node that either originates or receives signaling
12 messages. The signaling point code identifies a specific signaling point.

13 Q. WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF BELLSOUTH'S FAILURE
14 TO CONFIRM THE OPENING OF AN SS7 POINT CODE?

15 A. TCG is significantly harmed because without testing point codes prior to
16 their deployment for carrying traffic, TCG cannot be sufficiently certain
17 the traffic will route correctly. It is necessary for each carrier to open
18 the other carrier's point codes in their respective switches to facilitate
19 the exchange of SS7 messages (i.e., TCAP, ISUP). TCG has been
20 attempting since October of 1996 to have BellSouth confirm whether or
21 not BellSouth has performed the necessary translations.

22

1 **Q. HAS BELLSOUTH TIMELY CONFIRMED SS7 POINT CODES**
2 **FOR ITSELF OR OTHERS?**

3 A. As with meet-point billing data. I am unable to provide an unqualified
4 yes to the question posed. BellSouth, however, has not demonstrated in
5 testimony or otherwise that it is providing SS7 point codes to TCG in
6 the same manner and time frame as it provides them to itself or others.
7 It is my experience that a Bell company would routinely test new
8 circuits, including point-codes, before carrying commercial traffic over
9 them. Again, I do not understand how BellSouth witness Milner can
10 claim that BellSouth meets the first checklist item.

11 **Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCLUSIONS REGARDING**
12 **BELLSOUTH'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE CHECKLIST**
13 **REQUIREMENTS?**

14 A. Based upon TCG's experience in implementing the TCG-BellSouth
15 interconnection agreement, I believe that BellSouth is far from meeting
16 the first check list requirement.

17 **Q. DO YOU HAVE A POSITION ON BELLSOUTH'S**
18 **COMPLIANCE WITH THE OTHER THIRTEEN COMPLIANCE**
19 **CHECKLIST ITEMS?**

20 A. TCG has insufficient information, at this time, to comment on
21 BellSouth's compliance with the other checklist requirements.

22

1 Q. DOES THAT CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

2 A. Yes.

3